findings of the Inquiry Committee are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules and the accepted recommendations implemented.

Budget provision for new railway lines in Maharashtra

2536. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures of budget provision *vis-a-vis* amount spent on new railway lines, widening and doubling of existing rail lines in the State of Maharashtra during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the steps taken by his Ministry to make adequate budgetary provision on these rail lines during the financial year 2006-07; and

(c) what steps have been taken to utilize full provision during the coming financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) The total outlay provided and expenditure incurred for New Line, Gauge conversion and Doubling projects in Maharashtra during 2003-04 and 2004-05 has been Rs. 541 crore and 623.72 crore, respectively. Outlay provided during 2005-06 is Rs. 256.83 crore. The actual expenditure would be known after finalization of yearly accounts.

(b) Rs. 340.44 crore have been proposed during 2006-07 for various projects under the three plan heads falling fully/partly in Maharashtra.

(c) Progress of projects has been expedited to ensure utilization of funds

Luggage trolleys at major stations

2537. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to provide luggage trolleys at all major railway stations for the convenience of passengers, in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps Government have taken for the convenience of rail passengers at railway stations, since they are being looted by licensed/ unlicensed porters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing rates of porterage charges are displayed at prominent locations at the stations and regular announcements in this regard are made through Public Address System. Frequent checks are also made against the licensed porters and whenever they are found indulging in overcharging, their badges are suspended/terminated.

Budgetary support for funding railway projects

2538. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway projects have been taken in hand since 1996 throughout the country without requisite survey;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have a throw forwards of projects of Rs. 47,354 crores as on April, 2005; and

(c) what initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources for funding these projects apart from budgetary support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken in the last few years for generation of additional resources through project specific funding for National Projects, funding from Ministry of Defence, Public/Private partnership and non-bugetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Samparak Yojana has also been announced in the interim budget 2004-05 which envisages investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in 5 years on projects which have been taken up on socio-economic consideration for development of backward, remote and under-developed areas. However, the resources for this Yojana are yet to be tied up.